

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting**
Minutes of Monday January 11, 2010

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Ken Christiansen, Tracie May, Jason Clark, Jeff Bryan (Selectmen's Rep), Bob Mantegari and Charlie Gargaly (Swasey School Board Rep.)

Visitors: faculty, spouses and staff from Swasey Central School; Administrators Joan Ostrowski, and Tony Baldassaro.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Correspondence:

- The School Board voted on a change in their budget on January 4th. Elyse attended the meeting and e-mailed the changes and detail to BudComm members prior to this meeting. The new budget for Swasey is reflected below.

Public Input:

- None

Meeting Minutes: 12/14 minutes will be corrected and approved at the 1/18/10 mtg.

Old Business:

1. From Board of Selectmen (Jeff)
 - Advised BudComm that the Fire Dept. will be submitting a warrant for a new firehouse, and that the Board has recommended approval. This will be the same as last year's warrant, a bond of \$1,695,000, in terms of cost and scope of building.
2. From ERCSD Coop budget (Elyse)
 - Reviewing two new collective bargaining unit proposals for contracts and will report back to us on the impact of these proposals on the overall budget. It is expected that this will increase the Co-op budget proposal.
3. Legal (Elyse)
 - Warrant articles must be posted by the last week of January. Posting is usually in the Carriage Town News, Exeter Newsletter and Brentwood newsletter. Discussion of the warrants is scheduled for February 8 (snow date is February 12). BudComm recommendations to be reported in the Town Report. This is a legal requirement. (see below change)
 - Ken made a motion and Jason 2nd to include a numeric tally on recommendations. After discussion this passed 5-3. Selectmen will vote on including the tally with Budcom recommendations at their next meeting.
4. Budget Figures (Tracie)

- Check with Julie Stevens on recommendations and status of the balances and report back to the committee at the next meeting (1/18).
- Individual Town Dept. budgets are still in being revised and reviewed w/ Selectmen.

New Business

1. New impact detail on Budget.

- Valuations are anticipated to be down approximately 10%: as a result, tax rate will need to be increased. State revenues will be down due to decreases in room & meal taxes, and the retirement costs are up significantly.
- With new SCS figure, the tax impact per \$1,000 valuation looks like this:
\$.15 decrease from Town Budget ; down \$73,984
\$.35 increase (1.45%) from ERCSD budget; up \$695,430
\$.28 increase (2.8%) from SCS budget; up \$139,518

\$.48 net increase w/o final revenue or tax rate information.

2. Swasey Central School (Charlie)

- The SCS budget is the only town budget coming in over prior year.
- Swasey school budget presented is \$5,192,185. While it is a reduction from the initial proposal, it is an increase of 2.8% over the 2009 budget.
- The School Board was able to make the reduction by not replacing a retiring teacher.
- The budget includes ½ a teacher salary carried over from last year as well as an increase for benefits cost changes.
- Bob inquired about COLA costs. Principal Ostrowski said there are no COLA's. Salary increases are all part of the teacher contract
- Discussion noted an estimated reduction of the student population (projected for next year of about -20 students) for a total population of 410 including preschoolers. This is a best guess; the actual may be higher or lower.
- Currently SCS students number around 390 including preschoolers.
- Ken made a motion to accept, Charlie 2nd, revised Swasey School budget of \$5,192,185 ; passed 5 to 2.

3. Remaining town budgets

- Waste disposal (note recycling was already approved) Bill made motion, Jason second to approve \$107,471 rubbish collection. Approved unanimously. Jason made a motion, Bill second to approve \$108,020 landfill and tipping fees. Approved unanimously.
- Joint Loss. This involves random testing of employees and mandatory testing as required by law. Ken made motion to approve \$831, Jason 2nd, approved unanimously.
- Conservation Commission. Budget revised down by \$8,000 by the Selectmen. Bob motioned to reopen, Charlie 2nd. After discussion, Jason made a motion to approve \$5,075, Bob 2nd, approved unanimously.

- Emergency Management. This involves an emergency management plan and training, including with Seabrook. Jeff made a motion, Ken 2nd, approved unanimously.
- Other Revisions-
 - The Police Department is not going to reopen their budget. The Police do intend to purchase a new cruiser, looking to purchase a more “green” vehicle; this is in a separate warrant article.
 - The Fire Department intends to request new Fire House (as previously noted). They have included a separate warrant to cover the cost of needed repair to the current station which will be removed if the Fire house warrant is approved at town meeting.
 1. Jason requested the Fire Dept. provide a list of upgrades and repairs to the current firehouse going back 5 years.
 2. Elyse will request that and an estimate of costs going forward 5 years as well for the current firehouse.
 3. Vote on this warrant deferred to 1/18 meeting.
- Warrants discussed and voted:
 - Lamprey Health Care; Bill made a motion to approve \$1,500. Tracie 2nd, approved unanimously
 - Seacare Health Services; this service provides assistance for low and reduced fees to elderly and needy citizens. Bill made a motion to approve \$1,000. Tracie 2nd, approved 7 – 1.

Next Meetings: 1/18 and 2/1

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Minutes taken and reported by Bill Faria and Tracie May